

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 1036

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TAGS: EAID, PEPR, LY, CF
SUBJECT: CONGO PRIME MINISTER'S LIBYAN VISIT

REF: BRAZZAVILLE 1006

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. CONGO PRIME MINISTER LOUIS SYLVAIN-GOMA VISITED TRIPOLI JULY 21-24. TRIP WAS APPARENTLY AIMED AT PLACING LIBYAN-CONGOLESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON FIRMER FOOTING. WHILE MAJOR GOMA HELD BRIEF MEETING WITH QADHAFI, MOST OF HIS TIME WAS TAKEN UP BY TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LIBYAN "PRIME MINISTER" UBAYDI, AGRICULTURAL SECRETARY TABU, TRADE SECRETARY SHARIF AND OTHER OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA, CONGOLESE DELEGATION CONSISTED OF TRADE, ECONOMY, CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS. AN OFFICIAL DINNER FOR GOMA WAS HELD EVENING OF HIS ARRIVAL BY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER ABU BAKR YUNIS JABIR.

2. AS IS TRUE FOR MOST VISITS HERE, LITTLE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. LOCAL MEDIA NOTED SIMPLY THAT THEY FOCUSED ON INCREASING
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LEVEL OF COOPERATION IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC FIELDS. THE OPERATIONS OF THE JOINT CONGOLESE-LIBYAN TIMBER COMPANY WERE DISCUSSED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, AND ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE COMPANY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. THE TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED WAYS OF ACCELERATING ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT AGRICULTURAL COMPANY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT. CONGO-LIBYAN RELATIONS CONTINUE WITH THEIR NOW CUSTOMARY TIT-FOR-TAT CORDIALITY. LIBYA IS IMPRESSED WITH CONGO'S SUPPORT FOR HER POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THIS SATISFACTION BY MAKING SUBSTANTIAL MONETARY PAYMENT TO THE CONGO IN JUNE TO HELP OPANGO OUT OF A BUDGETARY CRISIS. GOMA'S TRIP, HOWEVER, CONCERNED WITH THE MORE NITTY GRITTY ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND ACCORDING TO AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, CONGOLESE REGARD TRIP AS RELATIVELY DISAPPOINTING. LIBYANS WERE FRIENDLY AND BUSINESS-LIKE BUT NO SIGNIFICANT NEW PROJECTS WERE AGREED UPON. GOMA MAY HAVE RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL CHECK TO EASE THE STRAIN ON THE CONGO'S EXCHEQUER (REFTEL), BUT THE LIBYANS -- IF THEY FOLLOW THEIR USUAL PRACTICE -- WILL TAKE CARE NOT TO LET THEIR CONGOLESE FRIENDS HAVE ALL OF THE CARROT AT ONCE.
CARLE

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